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November 30, 2001

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Powell,

This letter is to urge expedient processing of papers now filed with you by Qwest that would allow them to enter the long distance service market. As a Chamber of Commerce, we encourage free enterprise and competitive business for our area. Allowing more competition from reputable companies such as Qwest is not only good business for Helena and Montana but good for the consumers.

Studies have shown that when other states have allowed local phone companies to offer long distance service, consumers save astonishing amounts on their bills. Montana is currently working hard to build a better economy for its' citizens through better salaries, lower taxes, and a strong economy. Allowing a large Montana employer with a history of good service and many excellent jobs, to expand and offer more service to Montanans at competitive rates reinforces Montana's efforts toward a better economy.

Please consider the importance of expedient approval of Qwest's request to provide competitive long-distance service to Montana and the need to do so soon in order to assist Montanans in improving their ability have a choice in securing quality long-distance service at competitive rates. We support Qwest in this endeavor to expand and provide greater service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cathy Burwell

Cathy Burwell, Pres/CEO
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce

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